A Journey to “A Room of One’s Own”

In Woolf’s essay setting plays an especially important role. Many of the ideas here are informed by my own familiarisation with the idea of Psychogeography. As Virginia Woolfe considers the role of “Women and Fiction,” she makes her way through London. Her movement becomes a telling symbol of the way her gender is anticipated and/or informs her movement and what behaviours are permitted in such spaces. The social and historical background of her time is revealed primarily through setting and the impact it has on her own reflections.

You will be making a map with your fellow group members. Each member will be responsible for a chapter. Each chapter will be put beside and in between the other members’ chapters to create a linear map of Virginia Woolf’s movements through the essay.

Individually, students are responsible for

- a visual depiction to represent Virginia Woolf’s movements through the assigned chapter. This should have the names of the locations on the map. Each map will be on a piece of paper
- an explanation of the role each place has in revealing/constricting/constructing her impressions of “women and fiction.” There should be some marginalia attending the map locations that reveal this. Key ideas only. A verbal understanding will supplement the explanation, so don’t crowd the map
- an explanation of how the place “genders” her. Again, some marginalia will supplement the map, but the explanation will be primarily verbal. Key ideas only

Collectively, students are responsible for

- Some continuity of presentation. Papers should be able to connect in some interesting way to help us create a mental map of Wolfe's journey and the role it plays in informing our understanding of the ideas presented in the essay

The next step will be presented to you once you collectively determine an answer to the following prompt: Determine the role that setting plays in revealing Wolfe’s ideas regarding “women and fiction.” Be sure to explain what those ideas are.

The next step is to consider how the idea identified above takes form in our contemporary lives. There may be some differences, but seek similarity primarily. You must present your ideas creatively. You may present your ideas in any of the following formats:

The presentation must be brief (5 minutes maximum). You will be assigned, after the viewing, a presentation (not yours) that requires you to determine how the presentation gave contemporary voice to how the idea presents itself in our culture. That’s right. You are doing another group’s write up for them.